

Message Text

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ACTION HUD-02

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DEPT PASS HUD FOR STEGALL

E.O. 11652: /A

TAGS: TECH, UR, US

SUBJECT: US-USSR, HOUSING AGREEMENT: WORKING GROUP 10.03: CEMENT

REF: STATE 275855

1. USDEL REPORTED TO EMBASSY NOVEMBER 30 ON PROGRESS OF VISIT TO CEMENT FACTORIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES. ALTHOUGH DEL DID NOT OBTAIN CLEARED ITINERARY BEFORE ARRIVAL, THEY STATE SCHEDULE IS SATISFACTORY, INCLUDING VISITS TO BALAKLAYA CEMENT FACTORY (REOIRTEDLY THE LARGEST IN THE SOVIET UNION) AND PILOT PLANTS AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES IN PODOLSK, KHARKOV AND MOSCOW.

2. DELEGATION STATED SOVIET CEMENT FACTORIES, RESEARCH FACILITIES AND INSTRUMENTATION ARE IMPRESSIVE, EASILY MATCHING THOSE IN U.S. WHEN SCICOUNS NOTED THIS DOES NOT SQUARE WITH GENERAL SHODDINESS OF CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION IN SOVIET UNION, USDEL LEADER PHILLEO STATED VISIT LEFT HIM WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT SOVIETS ARE STRONGLY EMPHASIZING QUANTITY OVER QUALITY. HE SAID A CEMENT PLANT MANAGER TOLD HIM THAT LOCAL BUILDING AUTHORITIES ARE SO EAGER FOR CEMENT THAT THEY HAVE NEVER REJECTED A SHIPMENT, EVEN OF THE POOREST QUALITY.

3. PHILLEO INDICATED SOVIET INNOVATION IN ELECTRON RADIATION OF CEMENT RAW MATERIALS COULD HAVE POSSIBLE APPLICATION IN U.S.

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SOVIET INTERESTS IN U.S. CEMENT TECHNOLOGY APPARENTLY FOCUS ON

DECORATIVE AND COLORED CEMENTS AND CONVERSION OF WET PROCESS CEMENT
MANUFACTURING TO THE ENERGY SAVING DRY PROCESS.

4. PHILLEO NOTED PARTICULATE POLLUTION AT BALAKLAYA PLANT WAS
VERY HEAVY; THE NEWER PILOTS PLANTS, HOWEVER, HAVE ELECTROSTATIC
PRECIPITATORS INSTALLED.

5. COMMENT: EXCHANGES ON CEMENT RESEARCH APPEAR TO BE A USEFUL
AND APPROPRIATE ACTIVITY UNDER THE HOUSING AND CONSTRUCTION
AGREEMENT WITH POTENTIAL BENEFITS FOR BOTH SIDES ABOUT EQUAL.
USDEL ONLY CONCERNED WITH CEMENT MANUFACTURE, AND THEREFORE COULD
SHED

NO LIGHT ON REPORT RECEIVED INDEPENDENTLY BY EMBASSY OF SHORTAGES
CAUSED BY IMPORPER TRANSPORT OF CEMENT, SUCH AS IN OPEN RAILCARS.

WE SUGGEST THAT CEMENT TRANSPORT MIGHT BE AN INTERESTING TOPIC
FOR FUTURE EXCHANGES IN THIS AREA.

END COMMENT

MATLOCK

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